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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 28, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAKE LATURNER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MAGNESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Desert Storm and Battle of Mogadishu veteran, John Magness, for his service to our country and to mourn his recent passing.

Mr. Magness and I graduated from West Point together in 1986, after which he served 9 years in the United States Army. His early aviator years

were spent with the 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment where he was charged with conducting border surveillance in his Cobra gunship along 454 miles of the Iron Curtain after which he spent 4 years with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, proudly wearing the Night Stalkers name and supporting units like the Navy SEALs and Army Rangers.

After time spent as a consultant for the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Magness dedicated his time and talent to developing and enriching our communities through his work with Hillwood Development Company.

Where Air Force bases lay vacant and unused, such as Norton Air Force Base, Mr. Magness saw opportunity for flourishing. His efforts led to the commercial and industrial development of the San Bernardino base, now boasting of millions of square feet around the base. Fifteen years after he started this project, the development had contributed over \$2.3 billion for the surrounding community.

On May 18, 2010, Colonel John McHugh, another West Point class of 1986 grad and dear friend of Mr. Magness was killed in action in Kabul, Afghanistan, by a suicide bomber. As a result of his tragic passing and his legacy, the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund was created by the West Point class of 1986 to help Colonel McHugh's family.

The fund's mission quickly expanded to serve as many families as possible, giving back to those who gave their all. The fund honors military service and sacrifice by providing scholarships to veterans and military family members, especially to the children of fallen servicemembers. It has awarded over \$30 million in scholarship funds since 2014 and supports 4,500 Johnny Mac scholars attending schools across this country.

Having been a close friend of Colonel McHugh and a dedicated supporter of veterans, servicemembers, and their

families, Mr. Magness dedicated himself to the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund. To raise money and awareness, Mr. Magness undertook the Aconcagua Challenge expedition, tackling the largest mountain outside of Asia located in Argentina.

Undeterred by the 22,837-foot climb and exemplifying the West Point class of 1986 motto, "courage never quits," Mr. Magness summited the mountain after 10 days of climbing, even after two of his three-man team had to cease the climb for medical reasons.

Having conquered the mountain and accomplishing his mission, Mr. Magness succumbed to ensuing medical complications and passed away in the early morning hours of February 5, 2023.

Night Stalkers don't quit even after leaving the military service for the private sector. Mr. Magness was a fierce supporter of the organization's mission and the personification of former President Teddy Roosevelt's "The Man in the Arena," the man stained by "dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly . . . who spends himself in a worthy cause." Mr. Magness died with his boots on serving his country and its heroes.

Mr. Magness is survived by his wife, Angie, and their two children, Chelsea Shelburne and John Michael Magness, Jr. He was also a very proud grandfather of his 2-year-old grandson, Rhett.

His family, friends, and colleagues all describe him as a man of strong Christian faith, a patriot, a loving father, a grandfather, a husband, a soldier, a hero, a servant leader, and a friend. Mr. Magness, or Magger as he was known by his friends, exemplified these characteristics and more, all the while serving the community that he loved so well.

In both his life and in his death, Mr. Magness modeled service for all those around him. I was blessed to have

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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